

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application claims 2, 3, 6-9, 11-17 and 19 of which claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, and 11 are independent. Claims 1, 4, 5, and 18 have been cancelled.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, we respectfully submitted that this application has been placed in condition for allowance.

Turning first to the drawing objections, Applicants have amended the specification to include the reference characters not mentioned in the description. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the objection to drawings has been addressed and should be withdrawn.

Applicants have also presented a new and more descriptive title and have amended the specification and claims as appropriate, to address the informalities noted in the official action. In each case, Applicants have adopted the Examiner's suggestion. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully sought.

Claims 11 through 17 and 19 stand allowed. Applicants have amended these claims only to address the informalities cited by the Examiner and have corrected those informalities in a way recommended by the Examiner. As such, Claims 11-17 and 19 remain in condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 3, and 6-9 were identified as reciting patentable subject matter and being allowable if rewritten in independent form. As the Examiner will appreciate, Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, and 8 have each been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, each of independent Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, and 8 is now in condition for allowance. The remaining claims, namely dependent Claims 9 and 19, depend from allowable claims 8 and 11, respectively. Accordingly, each of those dependent

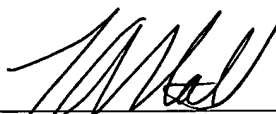
claims likewise are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance.

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue is respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Stahl', is written over a horizontal line.

Lawrence A. Stahl
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 30,110

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

LAS/tmm

DC_MAIN 198517v1